

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060506  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY OSD/ISA:DHARTIGAN;EUR/RPM:JAFROEBE  
APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:HAHOLMES  
EUR/RPM:EREHFELD  
EUR/CE:GHUMPHREY  
PM/ISP:LBROWN  
OSD/ISA:MGLITMAN  
S/S:AWOTTO

-----180631Z 102584 /14

O P 180600Z MAR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE  
INFO USLOSACLANT PRIORITY  
CINCLANT PRIORITY  
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR PRIORITY

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EXDIS - HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

MILITARY ADDEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, GW

SUBJECT: HIGHLIGHTS MARCH 15-16 BROWN-LEBER MEETING

FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF MARCH 15-16 BROWN-LEBER MEETING:

1. AWACS. BOTH SIDES AGREED SOVIET LOW LEVEL AIR THREAT  
EXISTED, AND AWACS PROVIDED MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS FOR MEETING  
IT. LEBER SAID HE PERSONALLY SUPPORTED AWACS. HOWEVER, HE

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SAID IN CONFIDENCE HE HAS YET TO CONVINCE SCHMIDT AND  
REMAINDER OF CABINET--WHICH HE IMPLIED HE WAS PREPARED TO  
TRY TO DO.

BROWN SAID HE UNDERSTOOD MULLEY WANTED MARCH 25 DPC  
MINISTERIAL ON AWACS AND BROWN WAS WILLING ATTEND. LEBER  
DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF DIRECTLY TO THIS BUT TACITLY

ACCEPTED MEETING AND, ASSUMING FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT, SEEMED PREPARED TELL NATO MINISTERS HE WOULD SUPPORT AWACS WITH CABINET AND BUNDESTAG. WE UNDERSTAND HE ALSO SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD PRESS THAT WHILE FRG SUPPORTS AWACS, IT CANNOT MAKE A COMMITMENT TO THE SYSTEM IN TIME MEET UK MARCH 25 DEADLINE.

ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS, BROUN SAID US WAS PREPARED PICK UP 33 PER CENT THEREBY REDUCING BONN'S SHARE TO 26 PER CENT.

LEBER AT FIRST SAID THIS WAS "TOO HIGH" BUT SUBSEQUENTLY LEFT OPEN SMALL POSSIBILITY HE WOULD TRY COME CLOSER TO US OFFER. LEBER WAS QUITE EXPLICIT IN TURNING DOWN IDEA OF FINANCIAL EXPERTS' MEETING, ARGUING REMAINING PROBLEMS WERE POLITICAL AND NOT FINANCIAL.

WE ARE PREPARING TO ATTEND MARCH 25 MEETING.

2. TANK AND TANK GUN. MEETING WENT LONG WAY TOWARD DISSIPATING FRG ANGER OVER LEAKS OF US TANK EVALUATION. BOTH SIDES AGREED: A. JULY 1976 MOU REMAINS VALID; B. WILL CONTINUE TO PURSUE COMMONALITY SOLUTIONS; C. THAT THE US WOULD NEED SEVERAL MONTHS OF TESTING OF ALL EXISTING GUNS IN AUTUMN 1977 BEFORE IT CAN DECIDE ON ARMAMENT FOR XM-1. US OFFERED WORK WITH GERMANS TO IMPROVE THEIR AMMUNITION IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CLOSEST POSSIBLE COMPARABLE TESTING. GERMAN RESPONSE WAS AMBIGUOUS BUT WE INTEND KEEP OFFER ON TABLE. LEBER EMPHASIZED NEED FOR INTEROPERABILITY ON TANKS -- ON GUN, SECRET

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FUEL, OPTICS, AND TRACKS -- IN ABSENCE OF COMMON TANK.

3. PROCUREMENT MOU. IN RESPONSE TO SUGGESTION IN FEBRUARY 23 LEBER/BROWN LETTER, BROWN SAID US READY TO EXPLORE DEVELOPING US/FRG PROCUREMENT MOU ALONG LINES OF PROCUREMENT MOU WE HAVE WITH UK. LEBER AGREED. WE PLAN GET IN TOUCH WITH GERMANS IN VERY NEAR FUTURE.

4. AIR DEFENSE. BROWN STATED THAT NATO WILL NEED NEW AIR DEFENSE SYSTEMS AND THAT THESE SHOULD BE PLANNED IN A CAREFUL WAY WITH REGARD TO THEIR OVERLAP, WHAT IS NEEDED, HOW PROCURED, POSSIBILITIES OF CO-PRODUCTION, ETC. (NIKE-HERCULES ISSUE PER SE DID NOT COME UP.) HE PROPOSED THAT STAFFS MEET BILATERALLY FOR INITIAL LOOK AT THIS AND LEBER AGREED. LEBER SUGGESTED THAT GEPARD (TWIN 35MM ANTI-AIRCRAFT WEAPON SYSTEM) SYSTEM BE INCLUDED IN THIS STUDY, AND BROWN AGREED. WE INTEND FOLLOW UP AND TO ENSURE PRELIMINARY BILATERAL WORK WITH GERMANS REMAINS SYNCHRONIZED WITH BROADER NATO ACTIVITIES.

5. BROAD STRATEGIC INTERESTS. MEETING DISCLOSED GENERAL AGREEMENT RE NEED FOR DETERR:NCE TO OPERATE ACROSS FULL

SPECTRUM OF ALLIANCE WEAPON SYSTEMS. LEBER AGREED WITH BROWN THAT WITHIN THIS CONTEXT EMPHASIS SHOULD BE PLACED ON IMPROVING CONVENTIONAL FORCES. LEBER EVIDENCED NO CONCERN WHATEVER OVER DECOUPLING ISSUES AND SEEMED WELL SATISFIED THAT US REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO ALLIANCE AND BASIC NATO STRATEGY.

6. NATO MINISTERIALS. LEBER STRESSED NEED FOR PRESIDENT CARTER TO ATTEND NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL MEETING IN MAY, FOR STRONG POSITIVE EFFECT THIS WOULD HAVE ON ALLIES.

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## Message Attributes

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